

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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P 242123Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 018851

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE ON LUNTS, ET AL

REF: MOSCOW 1038

1. FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED IN  
EVENT STORY OF EXIT PERMISSION FOR LUNTS, ET AL, BREAKS  
OVER WEEKEND. STORY HAS NOT RPT NOT YET APPEARED IN  
WASHINGTON POST OR NY TIMES.

CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE

IF ASKED:

Q. WHAT COMMENT DO YOU HAVE ON THE REPORT THAT THE  
SOVIETS HAVE RECENTLY INFORMED FOUR PROMINENT SOVIET  
JEWISH "REFUSENIKS" (ALEKSANDR LUNTS, IGOR ABRAMOVICH,  
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ALIKSANDR DYMSHITS, BORIS LAPIDUS) THAT THEY MAY LEAVE

THE USSR?

A. WE NOTICED THESE REPORTS AND ARE PLEASED TO HEAR THAT THESE MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES WILL BE ALLOWED TO SETTLE IN THE COUNTRY OF THEIR CHOICE. AS YOU KNOW THEIR CASES HAVE RECEIVED A GOOD DEAL OF ATTENTION IN THE US.

Q. IS THIS SOME KIND OF SIGNAL FROM THE SOVIETS CONNECTED WITH THE JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT?

A. THAT'S HARD TO SAY. WE BELIEVE THE CONGRESS IS THE BEST JUDGE OF WHETHER SOVIET ACTIONS IN THE IMIGRATION FIELD MEET THEIR CONCERNS. FOR OUR PART WE WELCOME THE SOVIET DECISION AND HOPE OTHER CASES WILL BE DECIDED FAVORABLY AS WELL.

Q. HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE OTHER REPORTS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE REFORMING THEIR EMIGRATION LEGISLATION?

A. THAT IS ALSO DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE, ALTHOUGH THE TWO THINGS COME CLOSE TO EACH OTHER IN TIME. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THESE REPORTS AND BELIEVE THEY ARE WELCOME MOVES IN AN IMPORTANT AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

Q. DO YOU THINK THE RELEASES WERE CONNECTED WITH CSCE, SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT OR PERHAPS WITH THE UPCOMING SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS?

A. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO SPECULATE ON SOVIET MOTIVATIONS.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT THESE ARE THE FIRST PROMINENT "REFUSENIKS" TO BE RELEASED SINCE EARLY 1975?

A. I UNDERSTAND THAT LAST SUMMER SEVERAL PROMINENT JEWS WERE ALLOWED TO DEPART, BUT THAT SINCE THEN THERE HAVE BEEN NO SUCH CASES RESOLVED. I CAN'T CONFIRM THIS HOWEVER. SISCO

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## Message Attributes

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